(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) The Drug Policy is still under review as such it would be premature to disclose the details at this stage.

Vital Cancer Drugs

3058. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in Hindustan Times on Thrusday the 5th September, 1991 under the heading of "Vital Cancer drug to cost iess";

(b) whether it is a fact that Etoposide Injection is exempted from custom duty being a life saving drug;

(c) whether it is also a fact that indigenous Etoposide Injection attracts excise duty of 20 per cent;

(d) if so, the reason for imposition of excise duty on indigenous production when the medicine has been terated as life saving;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government have received any request for exemption of excise duty; and

(f) if so, when and what steps have been taken to give relief to the cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. It attracts excise duty and @ Basic Duty of 15 per cent plus 10 per cent of Basic excise duty as Special Excise duty.

(d) to (f) The proposal for excise duty exemption on indigenous production of Etoposide Injection has been received by this Ministry which is under consideration.

Price of Pesticides

@3059. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices for pesticides are increasing continuously;

(b) what are the retail prices of various pesticides, item-wise and year-wise for the last three years as also in the current year:

(c) the manner in which they are regulated; and

(d) what is the mechanism for ensuring quality control of the pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) The prices of pesticides insecticides and weedicides are neither fixed nor monitored by the Government.

(d) The Insecticides Act, 1968 and Rules framed thereunder and specifications published by Bureau of Indian Standards provide a system for ensuring quality. For this purpose States have notified important functionaries for imposition to various provisions of the Act, like Insecticides Inspectors, Analysts, Licensing Officers and Appellate Authorities, etc. The Central Government have also notified Central and Regional Laboratories for analysis and augmenting the States' efforts for checking quality of pesticides. Periodical review of quality control arrangements are made in the Zonal Conferences. State Governments have been advised to take all possible steps for launching prosecutions under the Insecticides Act against suppliers of sub- standard pesticides.

Reduction in the prices of bulk drugs

3060. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of certain bulk drugs were reduced in the

@Previously Unstarred question 2270, transferred from the 13th December, 1991.